

PUBLIC NOTICE

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69-A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403**

REGULATORY DIVISION
Refer to: P/N #2006-1W-032-P

February 24, 2006

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army by

**J. A. GEISMAN
1343 FAIRMONT AVENUE
MT. PLEASANT, SOUTH CAROLINA 29464**

for a permit to install floating oyster cage rafts and buoys in

**BOHICKET CREEK
and
RANGE MARKER CREEK**

at locations contiguous to Wadmalaw and Seabrook Islands in Charleston County, South Carolina.

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by both of the above mentioned offices until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, 27 MARCH 2006

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of installing and arranging a combination of floating rafts and buoys for the purpose of securing oyster grow out baskets. The applicant anticipates the installation of as many as 10 rafts and 3 buoys in each creek. Each raft has the potential to accommodate 12 stacks of baskets, with each stack holding 6 baskets. Each buoy will hold 1 stack of 6 baskets. The purpose of this project is to raise high quality oysters from seed to maturity for the "half shell" commercial market. State authorization for this activity has already been issued by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control - Bureau of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under their Mariculture General Permit (#GP-000-02-021C(05) and #GP-000-02-022C(05)).

February 24, 2006

NOTE: Plans depicting the work described in this notice are available and will be provided, upon receipt of a written request, to anyone that is interested in obtaining a copy of the plans for the specific project. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION
69-A Hagood Avenue
Charleston, South Carolina 29403**

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact approximately 0.10 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising of red drum, shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein, and this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. Consultation of the National Register constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available information and has determined that the project will have no effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

February 24, 2006

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact me at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329 -8187.



Dean Herndon
Project Manager
Regulatory Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Rockville Quadrangle



Cherry Point
Seafood

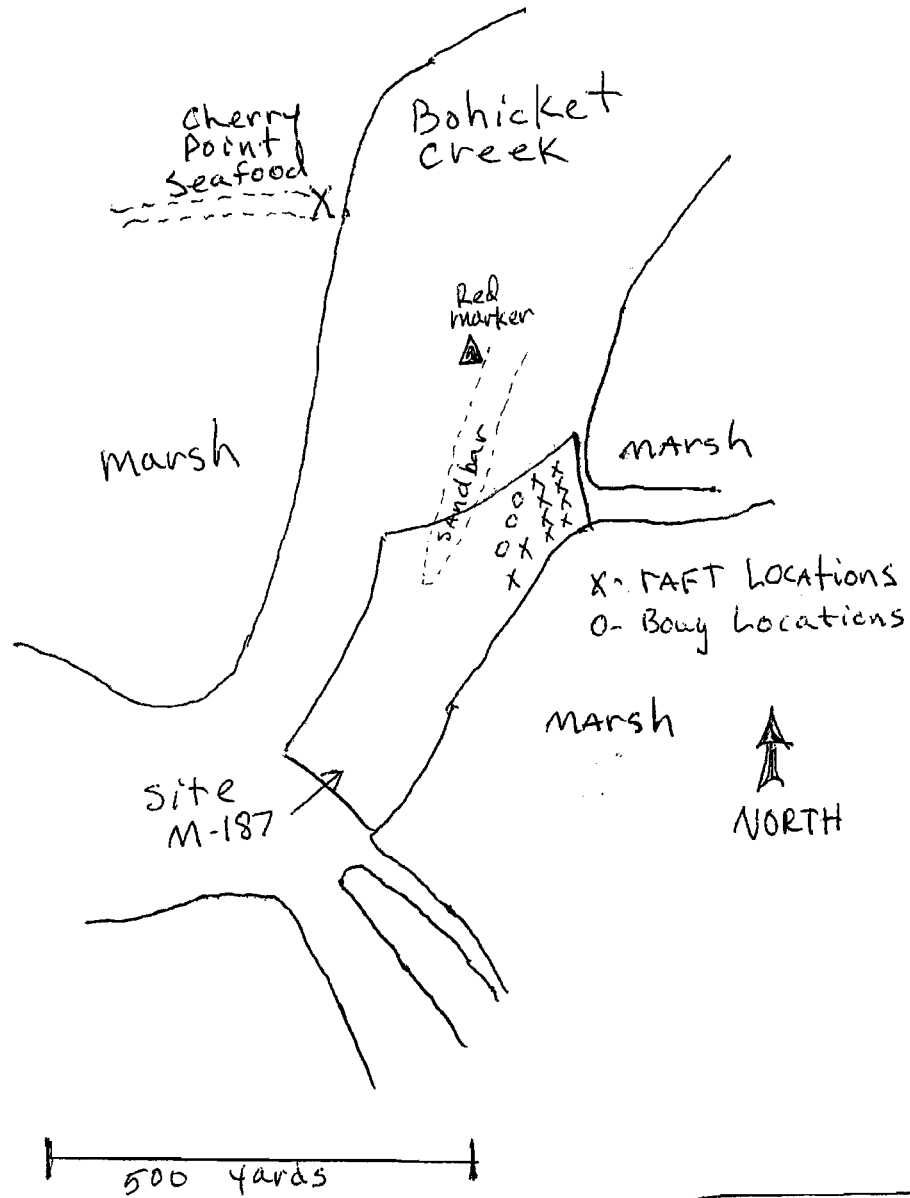
Site 187

Site 185

Cherry Point Oyster
JA Geisman
Site Map - Chas. Co
2-16-06
page 1 of 2

EDISTO
RIVER

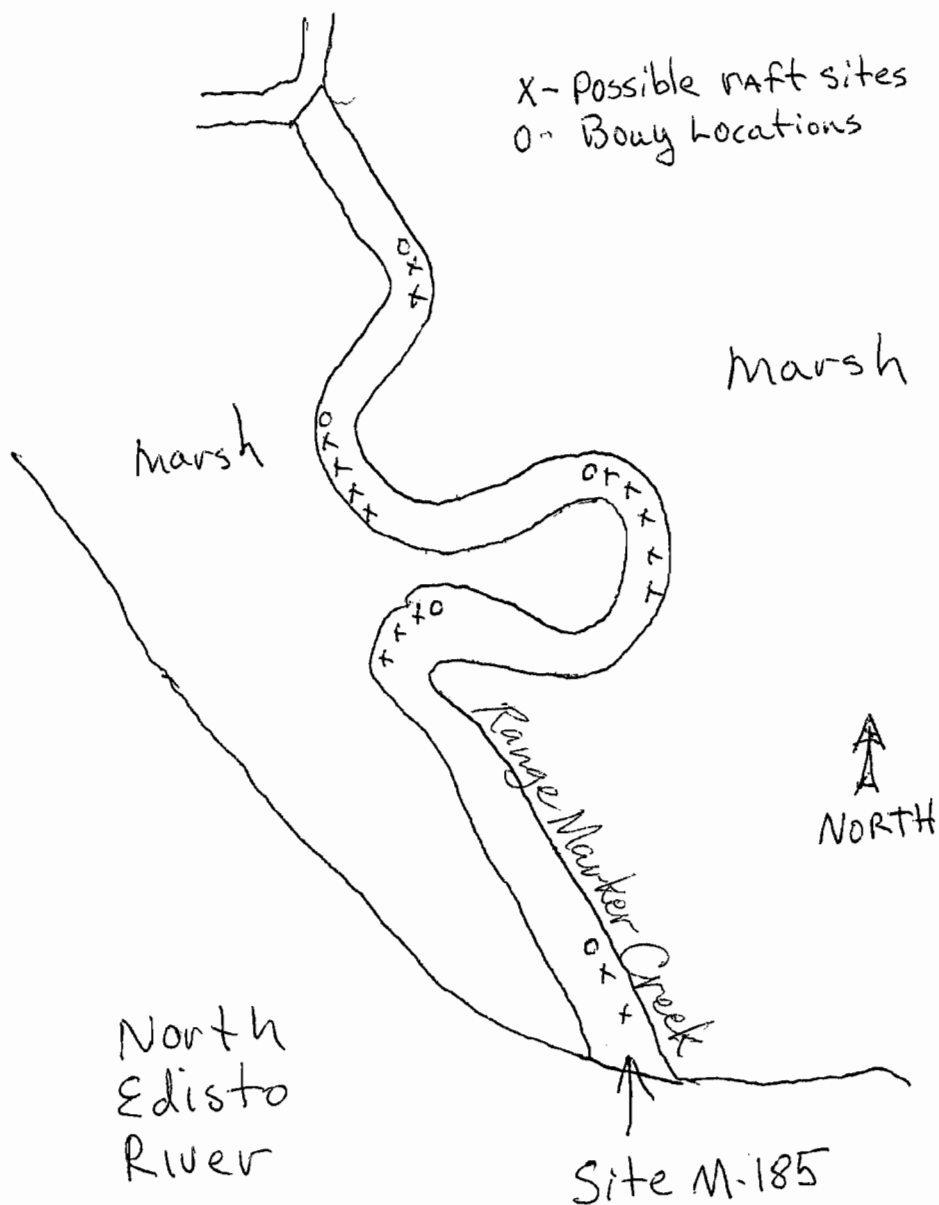
Plan View M-187



Cherry Point Oyster
Site M-187 *Chas. Co.*
JA Geisman
2-16-06

Sh. 2 of 9

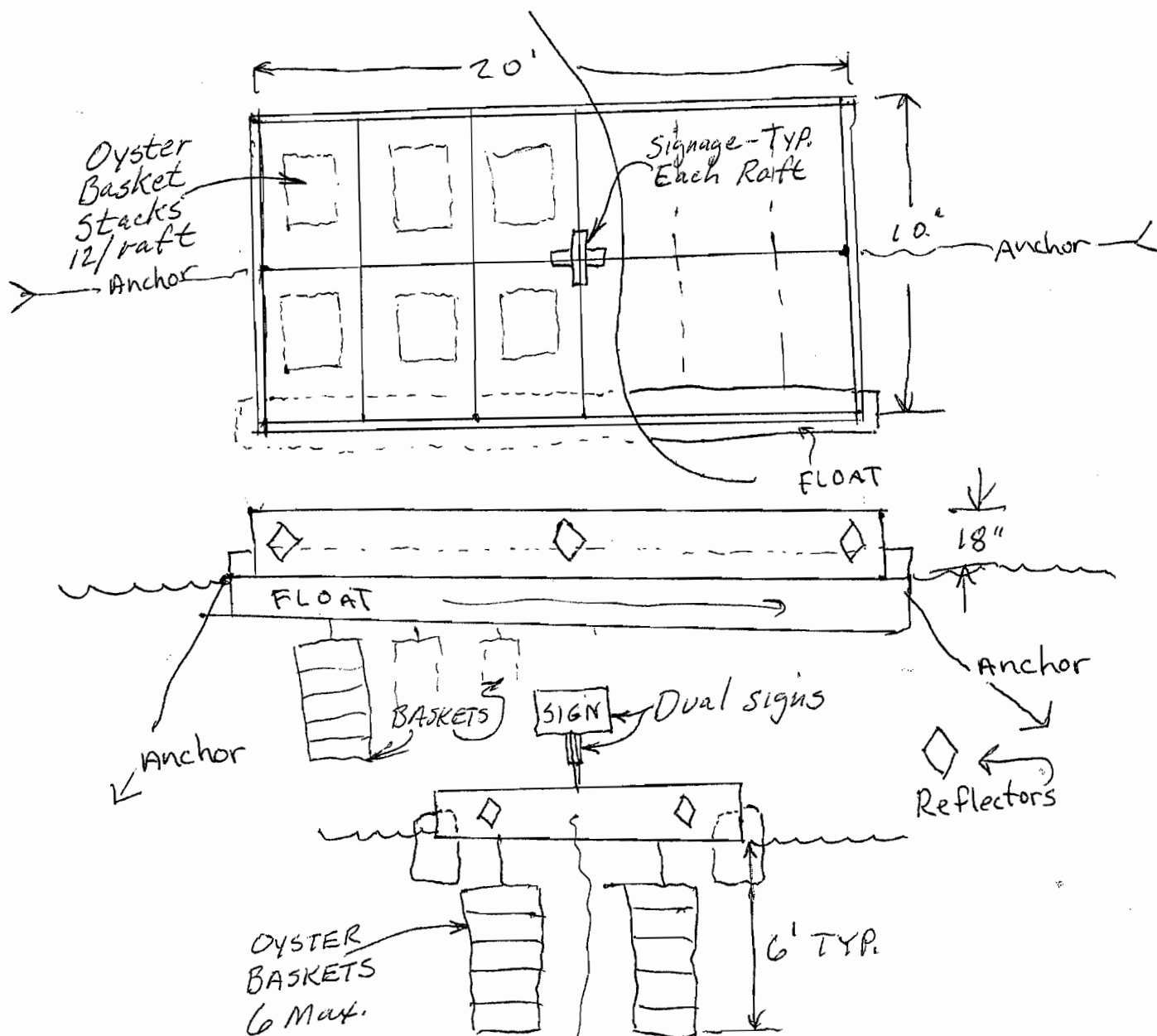
Plan View M-185



500 yards

Cherry Point oyster
Site M-185
JA Geisman Ches Co.
2-16-06
Shn 3 of 7

— RAFT View —



NOTE!

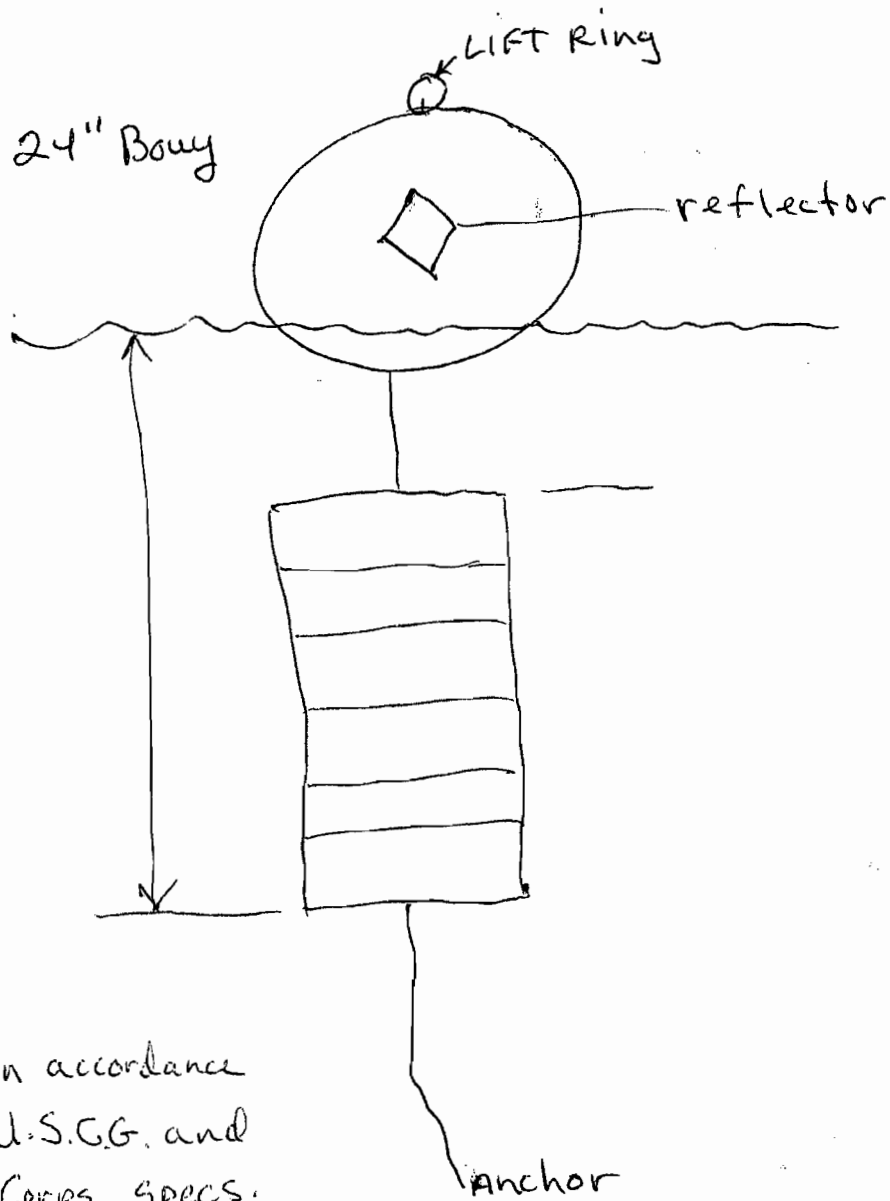
Raft Signage to be in accordance with U.S.C.G. and Army Corps requirements

Anchor

Charry Point Oyster
RAFT Chas. Co.
JAGeisman
2-16-06

Shr 4 of 9

Bow View

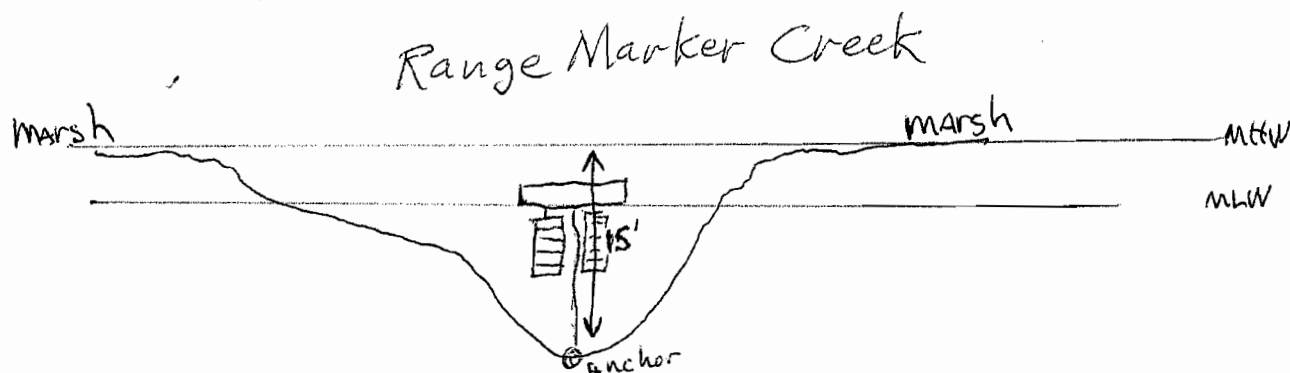


Bouy in accordance
with U.S.G.G. and
Army Corps Specs.

cherry Point Oyster
Bouy Chas. Co.,
JA Geisman
2-16-06

Sh. 5 of 7

Typical Cross Section M-185



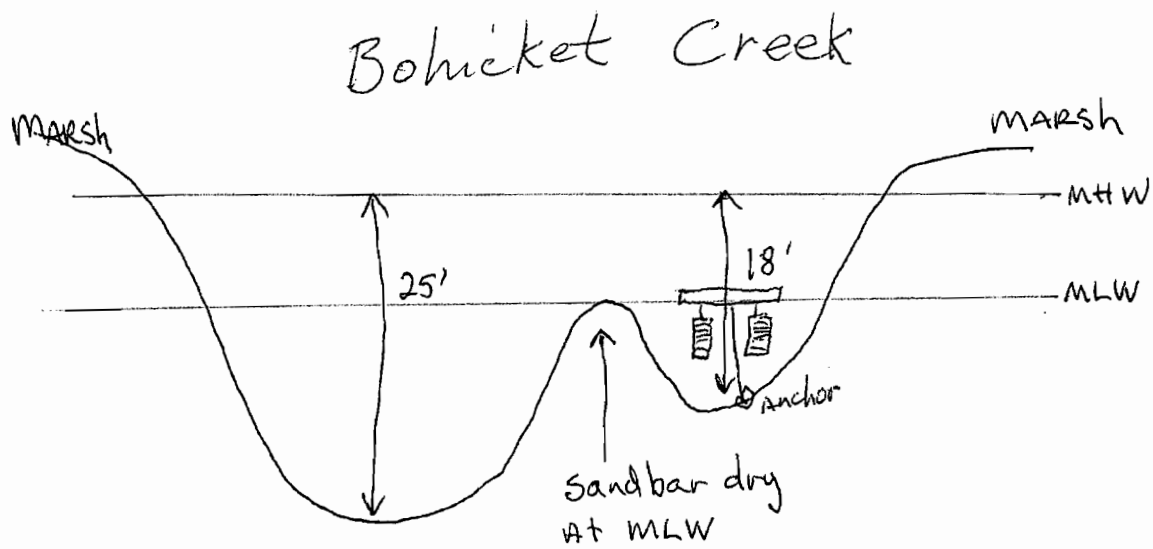
RAFTS will be placed in the deepest water
at the bends in the creek

- not to scale -

Cherry Point Oyster
Site M-185 *Chas. Co.*
JA Geisman
2-16-06

Shr 6 of 9

Cross Section M-187



Rafts will be placed on the East side
of the sandbar away from the channel.

- not to scale -

Cherry Point Oyster
JA Gissman
Chas. Co.
Sh. 7 of 9 2/14/06

Cherry Point Oyster

JA Geisman

2-16-06

-1-

The Cherry Point Oyster project will use the techniques that have been used successfully in other areas.

It entails hanging strings of interlocking baskets from a raft and/or a single string of baskets from a buoy. When the oysters are very small the bouys can be used, as the oysters grow they are sorted and moved to the rafts. The bouys are secured in place with one anchor and the rafts with two anchors, one at each end. At low tide the bottom basket stays off the bottom of the creek. Periodically the strings of baskets are lifted and cleaned using a small work platform and skiff.

Cherry Point Oyster

2/16/06 Sh. 8 of 9

cherry Point Oyster
J.A. Geisman
2-16-06

The rafts will be wood exterior using foam filled plastic floats, commonly used for floating docks, as flotation. the interior will be an angle iron grid to hang the baskets. The bouys will be foam filled plastic, commonly used for mooring bouys. the rafts and bouys will be marked with signs and reflectors as per U.S.C.G and Corps. Sugestions.

At site M185 the rafts will be set at the deep bends in the creek.

At site M187 the rafts will be set in the slough on the oppsite side of the sandbar from the channel.

We are using cherry Point seafood, Rockville S.C., for access to the areas and for a handling facility.

Cherry Point Oyster
2/16/06 Sh. 7 of 9